Guide to Using the *ESA Data

***ESA–Environmentally Sensitive Areas.**

ESA includes: **waterbodies, watercourses, wetlands, flood zones**, physiographic provinces, **significant and severe slopes, karst features**, special development zones, **drainage basins and watersheds**, native forests, high quality successional forests, listed species, **canopy roads**, and environmentally significant areas.
(Bold type indicates ESA Layers included on this map.)

Appropriate Use of The Data:

The **ESA** data is intended to be used as a planning tool, and is not a final determination of features that are on a site.

Limitations and Warnings

Under no circumstances should the ESA data be used as a final determination. Rather, it is an indication of the type and location of the features that are likely to be encountered on a site. Small features are frequently difficult or impossible to see through remote sensing techniques.

Specific Warnings:

1) DEM derived features may be less accurate in regions of tree cover,

2) Karst Features are closed contour depressions**,** but not all karst features are regulated as sensitive features; therefore, these features are often referred to as "potential karst features;"

3) Not all mapped features are considered constraints (drainage basins, physiographic provinces).

4) Proprietorship–certain data sets are the property of other agencies (FNAI, State Department of Historical Resources), and it is necessary to contact those agencies directly for more information; at LCGEM, Jill Weisman or Ned Cake can provide some preliminary assistance; contact person for the COTGM is Josh Blue and Susan Tanski with COT Parks & recreation; this data can be viewed on screen but may not be printed or distributed;

5) Forest and Listed Species coverages are always under further development; As it is not feasible to collect this kind of data through remote sensing techniques, it is likely that features have been missed.

Important things to understand:

the meaning of "CI" (confidence intervals): 4–walked boundary, 3– field verified, 2–sources agree, 1–sources disagree

how the data was derived: 1) topographic and aerial analysis, 2) DEM analysis. 3) field survey 4) Data transfer

source field: Tells you the basis for the physical mapping of the feature. For example, for the special development zones, the source is "1996 Landbase." This means that the location shown represents the elevation as derived through the use of the 1996 contours. Source may also include a previous mapping effort that addresses the feature under review.

metadata: Gives information about the data. For example, if this cheat sheet is lost, you could find the meaning of the CI by looking at the metadata. Get to the metadata by going through windows explorer. Select the drive to which the edb is mapped (the city designated drive letter will be "T" the path will be *"\\edb\edb\metatadata"*, and select the *metadata.pdf* file.

Never provide a map to anyone without the TLCGIS Map Disclaimer and Logos!!